Claim 36. (original) A method for screening a plurality of compounds so as to identify compounds exhibiting antidepressant activity, comprising:

- a) determining in vitro efficacy and EC50 values for each compound using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor or an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor;
- b) determining in vitro efficacy values for each compound at a GABAA receptor comprised of an α_1 or an α_5 subunit; and
- c) identifying as having antidepressant activity a compound having an EC_{50} value determined in a) of less than 200nM and an efficacy value determined in a) of greater than the efficacy value determined in b).

Claim 37. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the EC50 value determined using said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor is less than 150 nM.

Claim 38. (original) The method of Claim 37 wherein the in vitro efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 39. (original) The method of Claim 37 wherein the in vitro efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor is greater than 30%.

Claim 40. (original) The method of Claim 39 wherein the *in* vitro efficacy measured at said GABA_A receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit or said α_5 subunit is less than 20%.

Claim 41. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the in vitro efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 42. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the in vitro efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor is greater than 30%.

Claim 43. (original) The method of Claim 42 wherein the in vitro efficacy measured at said GABA_A receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit or said α_5 subunit is less than 20%.

Claim 44. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the GABAA receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit is an $\alpha_1\beta_2\gamma_2$ GABAA

subtype receptor or the GABA_A receptor comprised of said α_5 subunit is an $\alpha_5\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor.

Claim 45. (original) A method for screening compounds for antidepressant activity, comprising:

- a) selecting compounds having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any GABAA receptor;
- b) determining in vitro efficacy and EC₅₀ values for the selected compounds using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor or an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABA_A subtype receptor;
- c) determining in vitro efficacy for the selected compounds using a GABAA receptor comprised of an α_1 or an α_5 subunit; and
- d) identifying as having antidepressant activity a compound having an EC_{50} as determined in b) of less than 200nM and an efficacy value as determined in b) greater than the efficacy value determined in c).

Claim 46. (original) A method for screening compounds for antidepressant activity, comprising:

a) determining in vitro efficacy and EC50 values for each compound using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor or $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor;

- b) determining in vitro efficacy values for each compound at a GABAA receptor comprised of an α_1 or an α_5 subunit;
- c) determining in vivo effect of said compound in an animal model indicative of antidepressant activity;
- d) determining the *in vivo* effect of said compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and
- e) identifying as an antidepressant a compound that produces an EC_{50} value as determined in a) of less than 200nM, and an efficacy value as determined in b) greater than the efficacy value from c), and (i) produces a statistically significant (p <0.05) positive effect in the animal model indicative of antidepressant activity and (ii) does not produce a statistically significant effect in the animal model indicative of sedative effects.
- Claim 47. (original) A method for screening compounds for antidepressant activity, comprising:
- a) selecting test compounds having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_{A}$ receptor;
 - b) determining in vitro efficacy and EC50 value for each test compound using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor or an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ GABAA subtype receptor;

- c) determining in vitro efficacy value for each test compound at a GABA receptor comprised of an α_1 subunit or an α_5 subunit;
- d) determining the *in vivo* effect of each test compound in an animal model indicative of antidepressant activity;
- e) determining the *in vivo* effect of each test compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and
- f) identifying as an antidepressant a compound that produces: an EC_{50} value as determined in b) of less than 200nM, an efficacy value as determined in c) greater than the efficacy value from d), and (i) produces a statistically significant (p <0.05) positive effect in the animal model indicative of antidepressant activity and (ii) does not produce a statistically significant effect in the animal model indicative of sedative effects.

Claims 48-50. (cancelled)